

Claims Amendments and Claims Listing:

Claims 1-31 (cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) ~~A binding for receiving~~ In combination with footwear having a toe portion, a heel portion and an engagement member having a first receiver and a second receiver located on opposite lateral sides of the engagement member, a binding for receiving the footwear, comprising:

- a) a toe member for receiving the toe portion of the footwear;
- b) a heel member spaced from said toe member by a distance, said heel member for receiving the heel portion of the footwear;
- c) a first means for releasably engaging the first receiver;
- d) a second means for engaging the second receiver; and
- e) a third means for adjusting said distance between said toe and heel members, said third means extending between said toe and heel members;

wherein said first means and said second means secure the engagement member to the binding by the releasable engagement of said first means with said first receiver and the engagement of said second means with said second receiver.

33. (Previously presented) A binding according to claim 32, wherein said third means includes a threaded rod extending

between said toe member and said heel member and threadedly engaging at least one of said toe member and said heel member.

34. (Previously presented) A binding for receiving footwear having a toe portion, a heel portion and an engagement member having a first receiver and a second receiver located on opposite lateral sides of the engagement member, comprising:

- a) a toe member for receiving the toe portion of the footwear;
- b) a heel member spaced from said toe member by a distance, said heel member for receiving the heel portion of the footwear;
- c) a first means for releasably engaging the first receiver;
- d) a second means for engaging the second receiver; and
- e) a third means for adjusting said distance between said toe and heel members, said third means extending between said toe and heel members;

wherein said first means and said second means secure the engagement member to the binding by the releasable engagement of said first means with said first receiver and the engagement of said second means with said second receiver, said first means including a first latch having at least one first catch for engaging the first receiver and said second means including a second latch having at least one second catch for engaging the second receiver.

35. **(Original)** A binding according to claim 34, wherein said first latch has a closed position and said first means further includes a rotational spring for biasing said first latch into said closed position.

Claims 36-41: **(Canceled)**

42. **(Previously presented)** A binding adapted for use with a receiver having a cavity in an environment containing a coherent material that intermittently becomes lodged within the cavity during use of the binding, comprising:

- a) a latch having a closed position and a pivot axis, said latch attached to the binding for pivotal movement about said pivot axis;
- b) a catch attached to said latch in spaced relationship to said pivot axis and adapted for removing the coherent material from the cavity; and
- c) an opening extending through said latch and located between said pivot axis and said catch, said opening adapted to allow the coherent material removed from the cavity by said catch to be expelled from the region surrounding the cavity.

43. **(Original)** A binding according to claim 42, further comprising a rotational spring having a rotational axis substantially co-linear with said pivot axis and engaging said first latch, said rotational spring biasing said first latch into said closed position.

44. **(Original)** A binding according to claim 42, further including a base, said first and second catches coupled to said base.

45. **(Original)** A binding according to claim 42, wherein said base further includes a toe member and a heel member, said first latch and second latch each coupled between said toe member and said heel member.

46. **(Original)** A binding according to claim 45, further including an adjustment mechanism for adjusting the position of said toe member and said heel member with respect to one another.

47. **(Original)** A binding according to claim 46, wherein said adjustment mechanism includes a threaded rod extending between said toe member and said heel member and threadedly engaging at least one of said toe member and said heel member.

Claims 48-50 (Cancelled)

Claim 51 (Withdrawn/now cancelled)

Claims 52-54 (Cancelled)

Claim 55 (Withdrawn/now cancelled)

Claims 56-60 (Cancelled)

Claim 61-63 (Withdrawn/now cancelled)

64. (Previously presented) A binding for resisting a force having a direction, comprising:

- a) a base having a surface for confronting the sole of a piece of footwear and a longitudinal centerline;
- b) a latch pivotable relative to said base and having:
 - i) a position;
 - ii) a rotational axis;
 - iii) an engagement surface for receiving the force at a location thereon;
 - iv) a first offset between said rotational axis and said location, said first offset being substantially parallel to the direction of the force and extending in a direction away from said surface from a first line passing through said rotational axis to a second line extending along said engagement surface; and
 - v) a second offset between said rotational axis and said location, said second offset being substantially perpendicular to the direction of the force and extending from a third line extending through said rotational axis to a fourth line passing through said engagement surface in a direction generally away from said longitudinal centerline of said base; and
- c) a means for biasing said latch into said position when the force is not acting on said engagement surface.

Claims 65-68 (Cancelled)